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Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of detection in a multiple-input, multiple-output wireless communication system, comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving a signal representing a set of P symbols, one symbol transmitted from each of P antennas where P is a positive integer greater than 2;

(b) jointly estimating a subset of P_1 symbols of said set of P symbols where P_1 is a positive integer;

(c) after step (b), jointly estimating a subset of P_2 symbols of said set of P symbols where P_2 is a positive integer and wherein said subset of P_1 symbols and said subset of P_2 symbols are members of a partition of said set of P symbols and $P_1 + P_2$ is greater than 2 and wherein $P_1 = P_2 = P/2$ when there are 2 antennas.

2. (Cancelled)

2 ~~3.~~ (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

(a) after step (c) of claim 1, for each m in the set $\{3, \ldots, M\}$, jointly estimating a subset of P_m symbols of said set of P symbols where P_m is a positive integer and wherein said subset of P_m symbols is a member of a partition of said set of P symbols and $P_1 + P_2 + \ldots + P_M = P$ where M is a positive integer.

3 ~~4.~~ (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein:

(a) $P_1 = P_2 = \ldots = P_M = P/M$.

4 ~~5.~~ (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

(a) said jointly estimating of step (b) of claim 1 includes a decision using P_1-vector of soft estimates $\mathbf{F}_1 \mathbf{r}$ where $\mathbf{r}$ is a Q-vector of said received signals of step (a) of claim 1 and $\mathbf{F}_1$ is a $P_1 \times Q$ matrix for zero-forcing estimation;

(b) said jointly estimating of step (c) of claim 1 includes a decision using P_2-vector of soft estimates $\mathbf{F}_2 (\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{G}_1 \mathbf{s}^{(1)})$ where $\mathbf{F}_2$ is a $P_2 \times Q$ matrix for zero-forcing estimation, $\mathbf{G}_1$ is a $Q \times P_1$

matrix for zero-forcing feedback cancellation, and $s^{(1)}$ is the P_1-vector estimation result of step (b) of claim 1.

5 ~~6.~~ (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

(a) said jointly estimating of step (b) of claim 1 includes a decision using P_1-vector of soft estimates $\mathbf{F}_1 \mathbf{r}$ where $\mathbf{r}$ is a Q-vector of said received signals of step (a) of claim 1 and $\mathbf{F}_1$ is a P_1 x Q matrix for minimum mean square error estimation

(b) said jointly estimating of step (c) of claim 1 includes a decision using P_2-vector of soft estimates $\mathbf{F}_2 (\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{G}_1 s^{(1)})$ where $\mathbf{F}_2$ is a P_2 x Q matrix for minimum mean square error estimation, $\mathbf{G}_1$ is a Q x P_1 matrix for zero-forcing feedback cancellation, and $s^{(1)}$ is the P_1-vector estimation result of step (b) of claim 1.

6 ~~7.~~ (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

(a) said jointly estimating of step (b) of claim 1 includes a decision using P_1-vector of soft estimates $\mathbf{F}_1 \mathbf{r}$ where $\mathbf{r}$ is a Q-vector of said received signals of step (a) of claim 1 and $\mathbf{F}_1$ is a P_1 x Q matrix for minimum mean square error estimation

(b) said jointly estimating of step (c) of claim 1 includes a decision using P_2-vector of soft estimates $\mathbf{F}_2 (\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{G}_1 s^{(1)})$ where $\mathbf{F}_2$ is a P_2 x Q matrix for minimum mean square error estimation including feedback error compensation, $\mathbf{G}_1$ is a Q x P_1 matrix for zero-forcing feedback cancellation including feedback error compensation, and $s^{(1)}$ is the P_1-vector estimation result of step (b) of claim 1.

7 ~~8.~~ (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

(a) said subset of P_1 symbols of step (b) of claim 1 is determined according to signal-to-interference-plus-noise ratios of said P symbols prior to a decision in said estimating.

8 ~~9.~~ (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

(a) said subset of P_1 symbols of step (b) of claim 1 is determined according to projected signal-to-interference-plus-noise ratios of said P symbols after a decision in said estimating.

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~~10.~~ (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

(a) said jointly estimating of step (b) of claim 1 includes a maximum likelihood decision; and

(b) said jointly estimating of step (c) of claim 1 includes a maximum likelihood decision.

10 ~~11.~~ (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

(a) said jointly estimating of step (b) of claim 1 includes a soft decision; and

(b) said jointly estimating of step (c) of claim 1 includes a soft decision.

11 ~~12.~~ (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

(a) jointly re-estimating said subset of P_1 symbols using error compensation determined by said jointly estimating said subset of P_2 symbols of step (c) of claim 1.